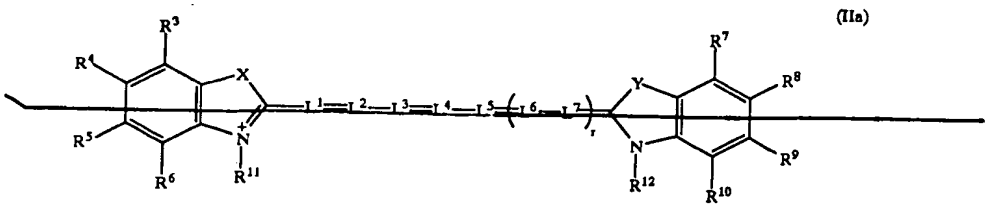
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 6, as follows:

Antibody-dye conjugates that comprise near-infrared dyes are, for example, those from the following classes:

polymethine dyes, such as dicarbocyanine, tricarbocyanine, merocyanine and oxonol dyes (WO 96/17628~~, which is incorporated by reference, teaches cyanine dyes of formula IIa~~



(IIa)

~~wherein~~

~~r represents the numbers 0, 1 or 2, on condition that, for r=2, the respective fragments L^6 and L^7 that occur in duplicate may be same or different,~~

~~L^1 to L^7 are same or different, each independently representing a fragment CH or CR,~~

~~where~~

~~R is a halogen atom, a hydroxy, carboxy, acetoxy, amino, nitro, cyano or sulfonic acid group or an alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, sulfoalkyl, alkylamino, dialkylamino or halogenalkyl residue containing up to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl, alkylaryl hydroxyaryl, carboxyaryl, sulfoaryl, arylamino, diarylamino, nitroaryl or halogenaryl residue containing up to 9 carbon atoms,~~

~~or where R represents a bond that bonds to another residue R and forms a 4- to 6-member ring together with the interspersed residues L^1 to L^7;~~

~~or where R represents one bond, respectively, at two different positions that are linked via a -CO- fragment,~~

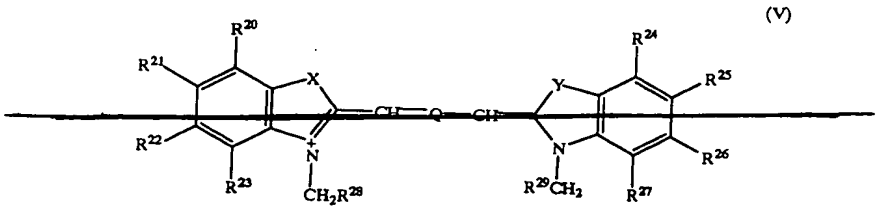
~~R^3 to R^{12} are same or different, each independently representing a hydrogen atom, a residue B or W (where B is a biological detecting unit having a molecular weight of up to 30,000 that bonds to specific cell populations or selectively to receptors, or accumulates in tissues or tumours, or generally stays in the blood, or is a macromolecule that bonds non-selectively, and W represents a hydrophilic group that improves water-solubility, with the n-octanol-water distribution coefficient of the compound according to formula I being less than or equal to 2.0 for l=0,) or an alkyl or alkenyl residue containing up to 6 carbon atoms or an aryl or aralkyl residue containing up to 9 carbon atoms, said alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl residue optionally carrying an additional residue W as defined above, or to each pair of adjacent residues R^3 to R^{10} are annealed 5- to 6-member rings that may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and that may optionally carry an additional residue R as defined above, with due regard for the interspersed C atoms,~~

~~X and Y are same or different, each independently representing an O, S, Se or Te or a $C(CH_3)_2$, -CH=CH- or $-CR^{13}R^{14}$- fragment,~~

~~where~~

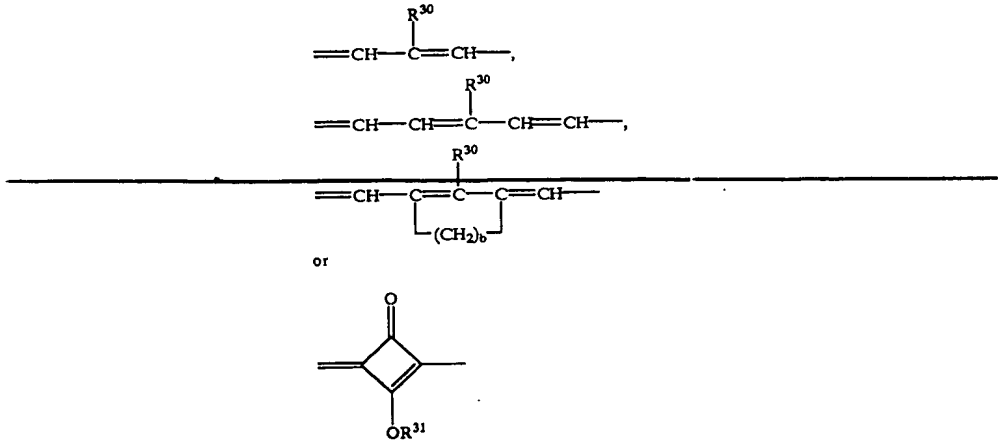
~~R^{13} and R^{14} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a residue B or W as defined above, or an alkyl or alkenyl residue containing up to 6 carbon atoms or an aryl or aralkyl residue containing up to 9 carbon atoms, the alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl residue optionally carrying an additional residue W as defined above;~~

~~and teaches cyanine dyes of formula V~~



(V)

where Q represents a fragment



or

where

R^{30} represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxy group, an alkoxy residue containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a chlorine atom, b is an integer (2 or 3), R^{31} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl residue containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

X and Y independently represent an -O-, -S-, -CH=CH- or $-C(CH_2R^{32})(CH_2R^{33})-$ fragment each,

R^{20} to R^{29};

R^{32} and R^{33} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, a carboxy-, a sulfonic acid residue or a carboxyalkyl-, alkoxycarbonyl or alkoxyoxoalkyl residue containing up to 10 C atoms or a sulfoalkyl residue containing up to 4

~~C atoms,~~

~~or a non-selectively bonding macromolecule or a residue of the general formula VI~~

~~$-(O)_v-(CH_2)_o-CO-NR^{34}-(CH_2)_s-(NH-CO)_q-R^{35}$ (VI)~~

~~on the condition that, where X and Y are O, S, -CH=CH- or $-C(CH_3)_2-$, at least one of the residues R^{20} to R^{29} corresponds to a non-selectively bonding macromolecule or a compound of the general formula VI,~~

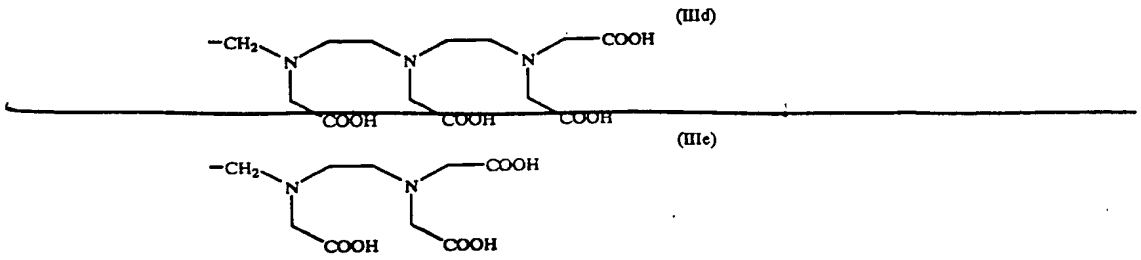
~~where~~

~~o and s equal 0 or independently represent an integer between 1 and 6,~~

~~q and v independently represent 0 or 1,~~

~~R^{34} represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl residue,~~

~~R^{35} represents an alkyl residue containing 3 to 6 C atoms and comprising 2 to n-1 hydroxy groups, with n being the number of C atoms, or an alkyl residue containing 1 to 6 C atoms that carries 1 to 3 additional carboxy groups, an aryl residue containing 6 to 9 C atoms or arylalkyl residue containing 7 to 15 C atoms, or a residue of the general formula III d or III e~~



~~on the condition that q is 1,~~

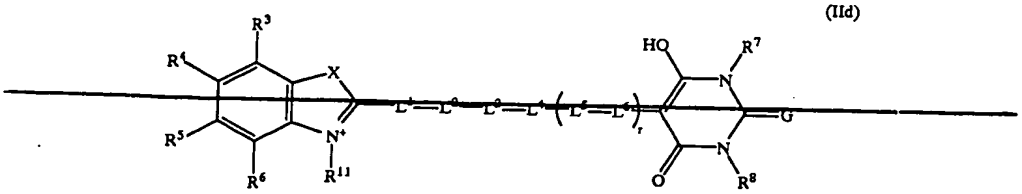
~~or a non-selectively bonding macromolecule,~~

~~R^{20} and R^{21}, R^{21} and R^{22}, R^{22} and R^{23}, R^{24} and R^{25}, R^{25} and R^{26}, R^{26} and R^{27}, together with the interspersed carbon atoms, form a 5- or 6-member aromatic or saturated annelled ring,~~

~~as well as their physiologically tolerable salts;~~

~~and teaches merocyanine dyes of formula IId~~

(IId)



~~wherein r, L^1 to L^6, R^3 to R^8, R^{11} and X are as defined above and~~

~~G represents an oxygen or sulfur atom.~~),

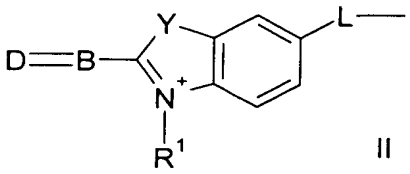
rhodamine dyes,

phenoxazine or phenothiazine dyes,

tetrapyrrole dyes, especially benzoporphyrins, chorines and phthalocyanines.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 11, line 3, as follows:

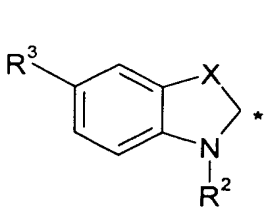
The invention thus relates in particular to those antibody-dye conjugates in which dye $-(F)_n$ of general formula I is a cyanine dye of general formula II



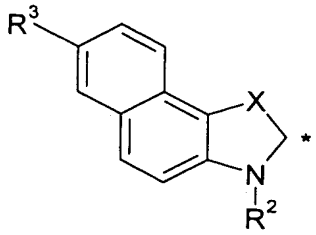
II

in which

D stands for a radical III or IV



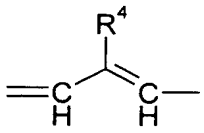
III



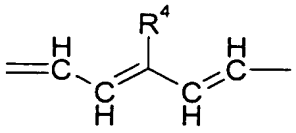
IV

whereby the position labeled with a star means the interface site with radical B, and

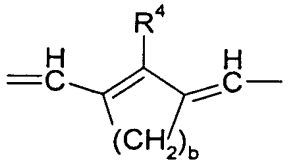
B can stand for group V, VI, VII, VIII or IX



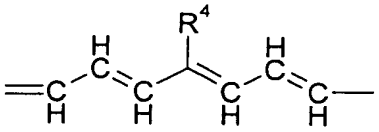
V



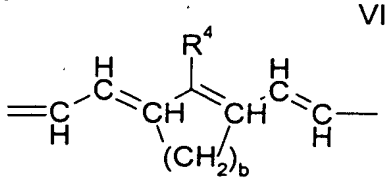
VI



VII



VIII



IX

in which

R^1 and R^2 mean C_1-C_4 sulfoalkyl, a saturated or unsaturated, branched or linear C_1-C_{50} alkyl chain, which optionally can be substituted with up to 15 oxygen atoms, and/or with up to 3 carbonyl groups, and/or with up to 5 hydroxy groups,

R^3 stands for group -$COOE^1$, -$CONE^1E^2$, -$NHCOE^1$, -$NHCONHE^1$,

$-NE^1E^2$, $-OE^1$, $-OSO_3E^1$, $-SO_3E^1$, $-SO_2NHE^1$ or $-E^1$, whereby

E^1 and E^2, independently of one another, stand for a hydrogen atom, C_1-C_4 sulfoalkyl, saturated or unsaturated, branched or straight-chain C_1-C_{50} alkyl, which optionally is interrupted with up to 15 oxygen atoms, and/or up to 3 carbonyl groups, and/or can be substituted with up to 5 hydroxy groups,

R^4 stands for a hydrogen atom or a fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atom,

b stands for 2 or 3,

X ~~and Y, stand~~ stands for oxygen, sulfur or the group $=C(CH_3)_2$ or -(CH=CH)-,

Y stands for $=C(CH_3)_2$, and

L stands for a direct bond or a linker, which is a straight-chain or branched carbon chain with up to 20 carbon atoms, which can be substituted with one or more -OH, -COOH, or SO_3 groups and/or optionally can be interrupted in one or more places by an -O-, -S-, -CO-, -CS-, -CONH-, -NHCO-, -NHCSNH-, $-SO_2-$, PO_4- or an -NH group or an aryl ring.